



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**March 3, 2016**

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## **MERCYROCKFORD HEALTH SYSTEM AND CITY OF ROCKFORD AGREE TO TERMS OF ANNEXATION**

**Rockford, Ill.** – Today, Javon Bea, President and CEO of MercyRockford Health System, and City of Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey, reached agreement on terms for the City of Rockford to annex MercyRockford's I-90 and Riverside Boulevard property. This agreement, and Rockford City Council approval on March 7, will pave the way for MercyRockford to begin construction of its new hospital and medical campus. Terms of the agreement include reduced permit fees, construction of a hotel to include no less than 80 rooms, and development of an additional 40 acres of land for retail business, bringing the total acreage devoted to retail development to 60 acres.

"We are very excited to have reached an agreement and to move forward on our East Riverside Campus Hospital project, as well as future hotel and retail developments," said Bea. "Today's decision brings us one step closer to breaking ground on the largest project in Rockford's history. We are proud of the work we have accomplished with the City of Rockford and State of Illinois, and look forward to a strong working relationship in the future."

"Our agreement reached today will reduce permit fees to assist MercyRockford Health System in the development of its incredible medical campus in exchange for specific commitments related to hotel construction and additional retail development. The incentive provisions within the Agreement such as the Enterprise Zone, municipal sales tax rebates to offset major infrastructure and development costs, and reduced fees are all designed to ensure that this 263-acres of property being developed by MercyRockford moves on a fast-track to become a premiere regional destination for quality healthcare, shopping, restaurants, and tourism to create jobs and grow our local economy," stated Mayor Morrissey. "This is a big win for

MercyRockford and a big win for the Rockford region, and we very much appreciate their commitment to Rockford through their investment, not only at Riverside and I-90, but at the Rockton medical campus as well.”

Bea continues, “We’re looking forward to building in Rockford. We are strongly attached to this great community and I am personally attached to Rockford, given it is my hometown. We have long looked forward to being a vital force in the health and economy of the Rockford region and its residents.”

Mayor Larry Morrissey will recommend today’s agreement to Rockford City Council at its March 7 meeting. MercyRockford Health System will continue with planning and anticipates groundbreaking yet this month with plans to open the hospital campus in 2019. For more information about MercyRockford Health System, visit [MercyRockford.org](http://MercyRockford.org).

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